

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /064 W

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R 250916Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5003

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 1131

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF LOCKHEED EASES TOWARD CLOSE

SUMMARY: WITH INDICTMENT OF TWO MAJOR FIGURES IN LOCKHEED SCANDAL, KODAMA AND OSANO, YEAR-LONG LOCKHEED INVESTIGATIONS HAVE VIRTUALLY ENDED. TANAKA AND OTHERS WILL GO ON TRIAL AT END OF JANUARY. END SUMMARY.

1. WITH INDICTMENT BY TOKYO PUBLIC PROSECUTORS ON JANUARY 21 OF RIGHTWING "FIXER" YOSHIO KODAMA AND MILLIONAIRE BUSINESSMAN KENJI OSANO, THE YEAR-LONG LOCKHEED BRIBERY INVESTIGATION HAS FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES DRAWN TO A CLOSE. KODAMA WAS INDICTED FOR FOREIGN-EXCHANGE-CONTROL-LAW VIOLATIONS CONNECTED WITH HIS RECEIPT OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS FROM LOCKHEED AND ALSO FOR TAX EVASION ON A DOLS650,000 COMMISSION FROM LOCKHEED.

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OSANO WAS INDICTED ON THREE COUNTS OF PERJURY DURING HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE DIET. INVESTIGATION OF TWO WAS SLOWED BY THEIR ILLNESS; BOTH ARE REPORTEDLY STILL BEDRIDDEN.

2. IN ANNOUNCING THAT LOCKHEED SPECIAL TASK FORCE WOULD NOW BE SCALED-DOWN TO SMALL TEAM BECAUSE OF LACK OF NEW

LEADS, TOKYO DISTRICT PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE NOTED THAT 103 PROSECUTORS ASSIGNED TO IT HAD SPENT 47,190 MAN-DAYS QUESTIONING 470 PEOPLE AND SIFTING THROUGH 66,800 PIECES OF EVIDENCE. IT ALSO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT HAD FULLY ACCOUNTED FOR ALL LOCKHEED FUNDS WHICH WENT INTO MARUBENI AND ANA ROUTES, SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS IN KODAMA-OSANO CHANNEL WERE UNTRACEABLE.

3. NEXT STAGE OF LOCKHEED AFFAIR WILL BE TRIAL OF FORMER PRIMIN TANAKA, FORMER LDP SEC GEN TOMISABURO HASHIMOTO AND ELEVEN OTHERS DUE TO BEGIN AT END OF JANUARY. THERE IS ALSO POSSIBILITY THAT DIET INVESTIGATION OF LOCKHEED WILL BE RESUMED, BUT PRESS REPORTS FUKUDA GOVERNMENT AND LDP LEADERSHIP WILL ADAMANTLY RESIST OPPOSITION ATTEMPTS TO REFOCUS ON LDP CORRUPTION. PRESS GREETED VIRTUAL CLOSING OF INVESTIGATION WITH DISAPPOINTMENT. ASAHI SHIMBUN EDITORIAL SAYING, "...END OF INVESTIGATION IS CONTRARY TO WISHES OF PEOPLE...AS LONG AS THERE ARE SUSPICIONS AND EVIDENCE, LOCKHEED PROBE SHOULD BE CONTINUED."

4. COMMENT: IF LEGAL PROCEDURES FOLLOW PAST PATTERN, TRIALS ARE LIKELY TO TAKE MANY MONTHS, IF NOT YEARS, SO THAT VERDICTS MAY NOT EVEN BE REACHED DURING LIFE OF PRESENT CABINET.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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TAGS: PINT, JA, LOCKHEED, (KODAMA, YOSHIO), (OSANO, KENJI), (TANAKA, TAKEO)
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